

# News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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*Time to enjoy the state's open space*

## **“Connecting Californians to the Outdoors” Symposium on May 25 and 26 in Los Angeles**

LOS ANGELES – The California Roundtable on Recreation, Parks and Tourism is convening a day-and-a-half “Connecting Californians to the Outdoors” symposium in Los Angeles on May 25 and 26. The symposium will be held from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. on May 25 and from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on May 26 at the Sheraton Los Angeles Downtown, 711 South Hope Street. Registration is \$125 and includes meals, all materials, presentations, and workshops. For registration materials call (916) 653-9901 or contact [symposium@parks.ca.gov](mailto:symposium@parks.ca.gov)

The symposium is designed to bring together public agencies, non profits, corporations and community leaders to address the issues and possibilities of making the outdoors relevant to all Californians. Keynoters and panels of experts, youth, adults, and managers of successful programs will set the stage for participatory workshops to focus on solution-based strategies and needed resources. California is the focus, but the application is universal.

Speakers at the Symposium will include: America Bracho, Executive Director of Latino Health Access, a center for health promotion and disease prevention located in Santa Ana, California; Derrick Crandall, President and CEO of the American Recreation Coalition, dubbed ‘the outdoor guru’ by *USA Today*; Charles Thomas, Executive Director of Outward Bound Adventures of Pasadena, California; and Sedrick Mitchell, Deputy Director, California State Parks.

California’s 36 million residents have a diverse array of interests and varying amounts of involvement in the outdoors. Statistics show that most inner-city youth never leave a five-block radius of their home. Figures on the increasing levels of obesity among young people are everywhere. And, many Californians have had little or no connection with the health and wellness benefits of outdoor recreation.

The California Roundtable for Recreation, Parks and Tourism was founded in 1998 to coordinate and foster public and private efforts to provide sustainable outdoor recreation in California. California State Parks is a founding member of the Roundtable and serves as Co-Chair of the organization.

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